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17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 280 WORDS) A study on Navajo American Indians is presented. Included are the tribe's history, resources, economic situation, and ways to improve it. The Navajos are different from other American Indian tribes in that they are rapidly increasing; they have increased the size of their reservation; they still live in isolation and in a primitive fashion; and they still speak their native tongue. Until World War II, despite presidential orders which gave them more land, they still did not have enough and kept to their old ways of eking out livings from sheep raising, melon and squash culture, rug weaving, silversmithing, and part-time farm and railroad work off the reservation. At the end of the war and after contributing to the war effort, the lives of the Navajos were changed by the discovery of oil on their land and the payment by drilling companies of huge sums to the legal rights, and by the voting of Federal funds for the rehabilitation of Navajos and Hopis. A revolution was created in education when universal schooling was achieved and in health services when the U.S. Public Health Service intervened. Suggestions for improving the life of the people rests on the exploitation of their economic potentiality. Their increasing population may become a pool of valuable manpower. The tourist industry should be developed, because their spectacular scenery would attract millions and make motels, restaurants, and shops very profitable ventures. Vast coal deposits can be developed to provide tribal income and a basis for a firm economy. If a pending government dam and irrigation project materializes, there will be 100-acre farms for 1,200 families and many allied service industries. Industrial development and management assistance is badly needed.							
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THE NAVAJOS

THE CENTER FOR CULTURAL STUDIES
Adams State College of Colorado
Alamosa

The Navajo Indian Tribe presents one of the puzzles of American in the 20th Century.

Other Indians have "vanished". Not the Navajo. They now number nearly 97,000 and are increasing three times as fast as the rest of the U. S. population.

Other Indians have lost their native language. Not the Navajo. Most adults speak only a few words of English.

Other Indians have lost all or part of their ancient hunting grounds. Not the Navajo. Since their treaty with the United States in 1868, they have increased the size of their reservation four times, from 3-1/2 million acres to almost 16 million acres.

Other Indians have deserted their longhouses or tepees for more modern housing. But most Navajo families still live several miles from their nearest neighbors in hogans -- windowless mud and log huts with earth floors.

But take a look at the isolation of Navajoland and you begin to solve the puzzle of the primitive Navajo.

Civilization has moved along the world's waterways, railroads, and highways. Up to now, the Navajos have found themselves by-passed by all of these. Nor have they seen much of other modern miracles; electric power, the telephone, television.

NAVAJO HISTORY. The Navajos, ethnologists believe, descend from a nomadic people who relied on hunting for their livelihood. They speak a variant of the Athabascan tongue, a language one can still trace through Indian tribes residing in Oregon, British Columbia, and the interior of Alaska.

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The Navajos (who call themselves "Dineh" -- The People) migrated to the Southwest in possibly the 16th Century (though Navajo Mythology says the People have always been here). When they settled in what is now northern New Mexico, The People showed themselves progressive and adaptable, adopted the agricultural ways of the Pueblo Indians.

By the late 16th Century, early Spanish explorers mistook them for Apaches (indeed, their language are alike) and call them "Apache de Navahu" -- The Apaches of the Cultivated Fields.

By the beginning of the 17th Century, the Navajos had shifted their ways again. They began to acquire horses and sheep and goats from the Spaniards, and by 1680 when the Pueblo Indians revolted and drove out the Spanish, the Navajos had adopted a pastoral culture, had learned to love the sheep that provided them with food and clothing.

The Navajos lived for the next 200 years in their quiet canyons and fertile valleys, left them only for occasional raids on Indian pueblos.

Following the Indian wars, U. S. Army General William Tecumseh Sherman signed a treaty with Navajo leaders at Fort Sumner in 1868. The Navajos agreed to return to some 3-½ million acres in the Canyon de Chelly area and keep peace with other Indian tribes. In turn, the United States agreed to give them 30,000 head of sheep and goats.

Successive presidential orders gave the Navajos more area. Even so, under their pastoral economy, the Navajos did not have enough land. Livestock herds steadily devoured range grasses, and heavy rains of the 1880's produced widespread erosion.

But the People kept pretty much to their old ways. They continued to eke out a living from sheep raising, a little melon and squash culture, rug weaving, silversmithing, part-time farm and railroad work off the reservation.

SOCIAL REVOLUTION. Then came World War II.

Railroads and war industries needed manpower and recruited more than 15,000 Navajos. Thirty-five hundred joined the Army, Navy, Marines. The Navajos made an outstanding contribution to the war effort. Navajo Marines in the South Pacific developed a code in their own Navajo language. The Japanese never cracked it.

But when the People returned to the reservation at war's end, they had seen too much to go back to the life they once knew. They were psychologically ready to span the standstill of centuries in a decade. And a combination of happy circumstances occurred to help them do it.

Big drilling companies discovered oil, paid the tribe millions for rights to its latent oil reserves, more million for royalties on the oil they pumped to New Mexico and the West Coast.

The U. S. Government set up the Indian Claims Commission to settle all American Indian claims against the United States and told the Navajos to hire themselves an attorney to prepare their case.

And Congress, in the midst of big spending for post-war foreign aid, was appraised of the plight of the Navajo at home and voted \$88 million in 1950 for Navajo-Hopi rehabilitation.

Oil. Legal rights. Federal funds. This amalgam has created a revolution among the People.

The tribe, for so many years a loose association of families, has achieved a sense of awareness. With its mineral revenues, it has been able to set up its own government under the leadership of the Chief Executive, Chairman, Navajo Tribe, police, courts, industry, take over function long delegated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Although the United States committed itself in the 1868 treaty to supply a schoolroom and teacher for every 30 Navajo children, Navajos largely resisted schooling for their children. When the war opened The People's eyes to life outside the reservation and more federal funds were made available, the education explosion began. As late as 1950, only 12,000 children were in school. Now practically all Navajo children (some 30,000) attended 150 schools on the reservation and its periphery.

Few Navajos live in villages. They're scattered all over the 25,000 square miles of the reservation. Most children must leave their isolated family hogan, therefore, and board in federal dormitories.

How well do Navajos learn? The language barrier slows down many and gives teachers more trouble than any other one factor in reservation schools. But for a good Navajo student (usually one whose parents speak English at home), the sky's the limit. The tribe has set up a \$10 million trust fund for college scholarships. These can be obtained by any Navajo youngster who is qualified to get into college.

And the U. S. Public Health Service has virtually stopped the march of disease. Since when it took over Indian health from BIA, the USPHS has set up five hospitals and chain of health clinic in the field.

The result: More and more of the People enjoying better and better Health

If you're a natural born pessimist, you might compare the Navajo reservation's meager development with its exploding population and then wind up forecasting disaster for the reservation Navajo.

But in this land of paradox and contrast, one of the Navajo's biggest problem today may turn out to be one of its biggest assets tomorrow.

A whole new school of economists have looked at growing populations all over the world. But they're not calling it a curse. It's "the population blessing."

What about the Navajo? Is the tribes booming population merely an insuperable problem? Or will it turn out to be a pool of valuable manpower and a ready market for all manner of manufactured goods and services?

In assessing the value of reservation resources, then, you must consider manpower as one of its greatest. And, as Navajos acquire greater job skills, that manpower will grow in value.

Universal schooling has only been achieved in the past few years. Who knows what effect this phenomenon will have on Navajoland.

TOURISM. Many overlook one of Navajoland's greatest and most salable resources: its spectacular scenery.

Tribal leaders have already recognized the tremendous drawing power of such scenery-studded spots as red rock walls of Canyon de Chelly, the pines and spruces, trout streams and lakes of the Chuska Mountains, the majestic, ancient spires of Monument Valley, the dry falls of the Little Colorado, Glen

Canyon Dam and its gigantic Lake Powell and Morgan Lake. Monument Valley's 96,000 acres the first of a number of parks planned by the tribes.

Even in the wide open West, recreation areas become more jammed every year, Navajo know they have a golden opportunity to meet increasing recreation needs in The West.

The People have to be ready to go into the tourist business, set up motels, restaurants, shops where sightseers can spend their vacation dollars. As it is, there are few places on the reservation where a tourists can spend the night, or even had a good dinner. Thousands visit the Navajo Tribal Fair at Window Rock each September, but must drive 27 miles away to Gallup for motel accommodations.

The tribe, however, has seen its success at two small motels, one at Window Rock, the other at Shiprock, and has engaged consulting firms to help them plan more motels and restaurants.

Soon the tribe may have a network of motels across the reservation. More than 8,000 tourists visited Canyon de Chelly in 1955; 21,000 visited in 1959. In 1960, 50,000 came to see its wonders. Perhaps the first new tribal motel will spring up here.

The tribe has developed a huge Boy Scout camp in a natural gigantic amphitheater in the Chuska Mountains. Boy Scouts from all over the United States visit the camp every year, then return home and spread the word about the beauties of the reservation.

MINERALS. At the present time, oil and gas constitute the most important minerals under development on the reservation. With techniques presently available, it is possible to recover between 15-20 per cent of the oil from underground deposits, but estimates place the probable life of the Four Corners oil field at a minimum of 30, with the possibility of 50-60 years.

But the tribe is looking to the development of its vast coal deposits to provide tribal income and a basis for a firm economy in future years.

Arizona Public Service and Utah Construction and Mining Company have gone ahead with the tribe and made plans for a giant coal mining operation and steam generating power plant. Here the tribe will get economical power--power that may provide just the lure needed to bring industry and 10,000 additional jobs to the San Juan River Basin.

Why the San Juan Basin and not some other part of the reservation?

WATER. Because water is still necessary to any industrial or urban development and water is still very dear on the reservation. It costs \$10,000 to dig a well: The water is down deep. But the San Juan, a major tributary of the Colorado, flows with good water. Just east of the reservation, the Bureau of Reclamation is building the \$23 million Navajo Dam on the San Juan, part of an overall Upper Colorado River Storage Project.

Some of the water behind that dam is earmarked for the Navajo reservation and a Navajo Irrigation Project to bring that water to 110,000 acres of irrigable Navajo Land is now pending in Congress. Looking forward to that day, the tribe foresees 100-acre farms for 1,200 families, and room for another 1,200 to 1,800 in allied service industries.

To train Navajos in modern farming methods, the Bureau of Indian Affairs completed the construction of a 1,200 acre irrigation project on the Hogback Unit, located near the helium plant a few miles west of Shiprock, New Mexico. In the past few years, the Navajo Tribe has appropriated several hundred thousand dollars for the training program. In addition to instruction in modern farming techniques, the trainees also received instruction in English, arithmetic, farm budget, and record keeping. Their wives are trained in home economics and homemaking by experienced extension workers. The tribe is preparing, then, a nucleus of highly trained farmers ready to take their place on the Navajo Irrigation Project or any other irrigation farmlands that become available.

In all of this planning for greater industrial development, the tribe must plan ahead for the growth of modern communities. At this time, the tribe is making master plans for some 40 communities on the reservation. It considers population trends, community economic opportunities, utility requirements, water supply, sewers, streets, shopping centers. Congress has passed a bill allowing Navajos to lease their lands for up to 99 years. That will pave the way for not only more industrial development, but also for FHA financed homes.

Under the old pastoral economy, the isolation hogan was just the thing. Now, with the industry of the late 20th Century ready to invade the reservation, towns will spring up like magic.

More than anything else, the Navajo Indian tribe needs industrial development.

Following World War II, an analysis of reservation resources revealed that only half the population--at that time, 35,000 -- could possibly live off the

land at a decent standard. The other half would have to seek other ways to make a living.

Reservation economy, according to the report, was "delicately balanced." (In 1940, the average per capita income was \$81.89 a year. In 1958, it climbed to \$467, still less than one-fourth the national average). Basing calculations on the fact that Navajo reservation economy depended largely on grazing (and on the assumption that it must), the report concluded that The People were overcrowded on their 25 thousand square miles of land. As a corollary of this, the report said that half the People should move off the reservation. This has presented large difficulties: many do not want to leave their home, others lack the education or training for life off the reservation.

Another conclusion of the report (in some ways a more realistic, in other ways a more visionary one): change the reservation economy from such a great dependence on sheep. Make jobs for the People.

Already some great changes have occurred. In 1940, livestock and agriculture contributed 58.4 per cent of the total Navajo income. In 1958, it comprised a little more than 10 per cent of total income.

In recent past, the greatest number of reservation jobs have been created by the federal government and the Navajo Tribal government. Last year, the United States employed over 1,700 persons on the reservation, the Tribe around 1,000.

The nearby railroads off the reservation have always been sympathetic employers of Navajo labor, with as many as 4,300 Navajos on the payroll in a single year (1957). But railroad carloadings have dropped, the Navajo maintenance workers and carloaders naturally feel the impact when traffic volume declines.

What sort of industry has been established on the reservation?

MANUFACTURING. The Navajo Tribe has experimented with several projects of its own. They took over some trading posts, a cement plant, clay products, leather products, and wool textiles industries and dropped them all. One of the main problems, said observers: lack of management experience among the Navajo and Bureau of Indian Affairs supervisors.

Other pilot projects were more successful. The tribe still operates an arts and crafts guild, the Window Rock coalmine, the Wingate Village Housing Project, and two tribal motels and restaurants at Window Rock and Shiprock.

The tribe turned to another outlet. It tried to attract outside industries to the reservation or to nearby border towns and thereby secure more jobs for Navajos. It succeeded in getting a furniture company to Gamerco, New Mexico and an electronics company to Flagstaff, Arizona. Both efforts proved Navajos could be trained to get the job done. The electronics company subsequently lost its government contract, however, and moved out of the area. The furniture company still flourishes.

For years, the tribe has operated a lumber camp at Sawmill, Arizona, and has produced about 20 million board feet of lumber a year during past years. The success of this operation, partly supervised by the BIA foresters, and further surveys of the tribe's vast stands of ponderosa pine have encouraged the tribe to appropriate \$7- $\frac{1}{2}$ million for a new sawmill operation in the Chuska Mountains on the Arizona-New Mexico border. There, the tribe has set up a whole new town called Navajo, New Mexico, plans to cut about 50 million board feet a year for the next ten years, and then level off at about 38 million board feet a year on a sustained yield basis.

Significantly, the tribe has elected five long time western lumber men to its board of directors and hired an expert manager for the new sawmill. Plans call for employment for nearly 325 Navajos there, and retention of some 150 at the old sawmill.

Other Navajos (though not in significantly large numbers) draw wages from work on the reservation's uranium mills at Tuba City, Mexican Hat, and Shiprock, at the federal ordinance depots at Wingate and Bellemont, on the oil and gas wells and pipelines, and on road construction projects.

The Navajo government, of course, has received millions of dollars from oil, gas, and uranium royalties and leases. Bonuses reached a peak of \$33 million in 1956.

But tribal officials do not distribute the money to the members on a per capita basis as many U.S. tribes do.

Rather, the tribe has spent it for surveys, planning, research, law and order, well digging, public works projects, improved health and education, welfare projects (\$500,000 a year for school children's clothing, eyeglasses, hearing aids), and community development. The tribe has built over 25 community centers to serve as gathering places for grassroots political meetings, barbeques, parties, dances.

In the field of industrial development, then, the tribe has moved far-- from almost nothing through valuable experience-giving failures, to some minor successes.

And a resolve to forge ahead in areas where it knows it can succeed.

NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN, RAYMOND NAKAI-

INAUGURAL ADDRESS:

While we work for progress, let us not forget the elderly people, our fathers and mothers and grandparents. Let us remember the examples of their lives and the values they have bequeathed us. We will keep the faith with you and your wise counsel will ever be remembered.

"Only he who makes his people strong is strong, and only he who rules free men is great." This shall be the motto of my administration.

It is a better world we have to build, the one where every Navajo shall stand erect beside his fellow Americans as an equal among equals.

Councilers and friends, the tools are ready and the task is tremendous

LET US NOW GO TO WORK TOGETHER